

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05674 310933Z

44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 310800Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8063

S E C R E T CAIRO 5674

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR EG VS

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN OVERFLIGHT OF SOUTH
VIETNAM

REF: SAIGON 9951 AND PREVIOUS

1. GAVE SUBSTANCE REFTEL TO FAHMY TODAY. HE WAS A BIT CONCERNED ABOUT REFTEL SUGGESTION THAT MATTER BE HANDLED THROUGH SAQQAF PARTLY BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY OF LATTER'S VISIT TO SAIGON, BUT SAID GOE WILL PROCEED AS SUGGESTED. KING FAYSAL IS CURRENTLY IN CAIRO AND MATTER MAY BE DISCUSSED WITH HIM OR HIS ENTOURAGE. FAHMY ASKED THAT IS SAQQAF'S VISIT TO SAIGON SHOULD BE DELAYED, WOULD RVN BE WILLING TO HAVE REQUEST MADE THROUGH GVN AMB IN JIDDA. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW, BUT WOULD INQUIRE. FAHMY HAD NO PROBLEM WITH CONCEPT OF "COMPENSATORY ADVANTAGE" FOR GVN IF THE INITIAL SIX MONTH OVERFLIGHT IS TO BE REWED.

2. FYI. FAHMY IS NOT PLEASED WITH THE IDEA OF HAVING TO WORK THROUGH SAQQAF, WHOM HE DETESTS. NOR IS HE ENTIRELY SURE THAT SAQQAF, IF THE LATTER GOES TO SAIGON, WILL ADEQUATELY PRESENT GOE'S CASE. I ALSO QUATION GVN'S APPARENT ASSUMPTION THAT SAG'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME A SPECAIL MISSION IN BEHALF OF GOE WILL GENERATE ANY PRESSURE ON SAQQAF TO MAKE AN
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EARLY VISIT TO SAIGON. HE WILL GO IN HIS OWN SWEET

TIME AND THERE IS NOTHING EGYPTIANS CAN DO TO SPEED UP
HIS TRIP.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

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